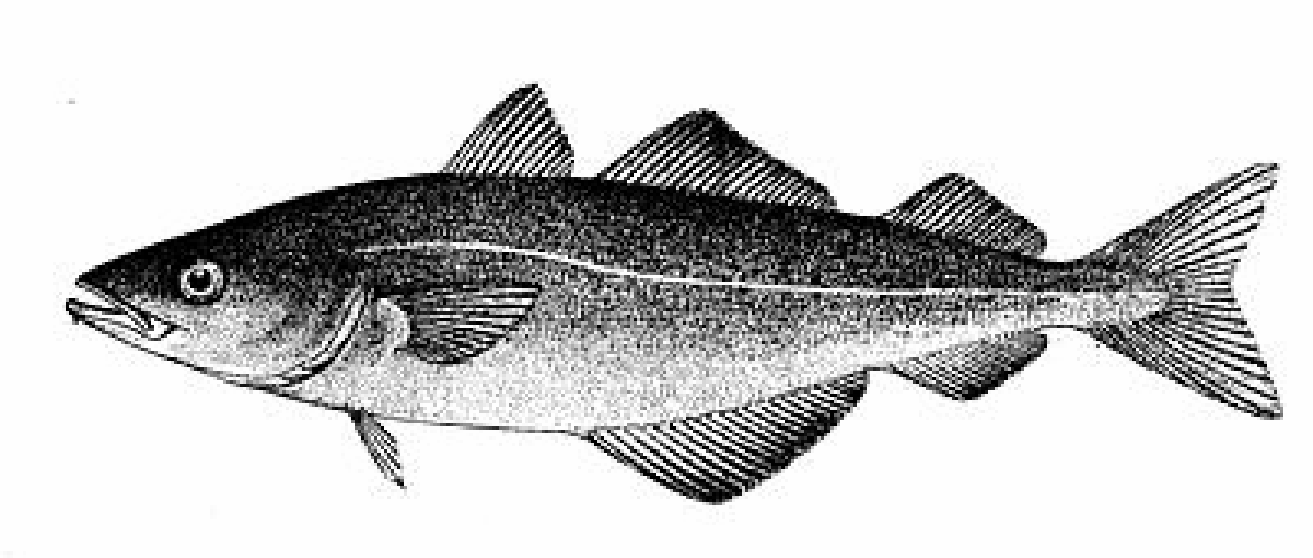
Pollock in Subareas 5 & 6



Commercial Statistical Areas Used to Define the Pollock Stock in Subareas 5&6

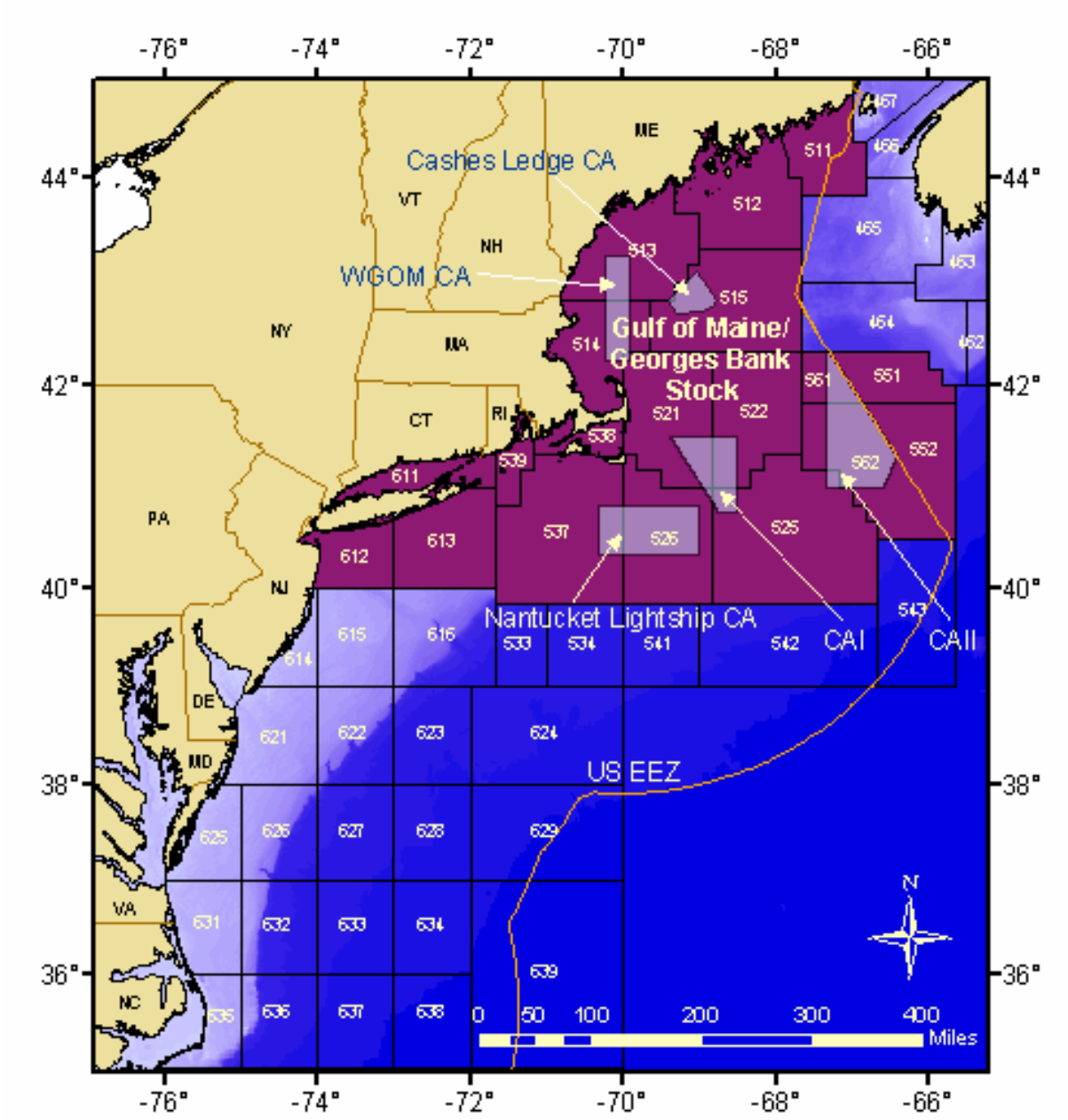
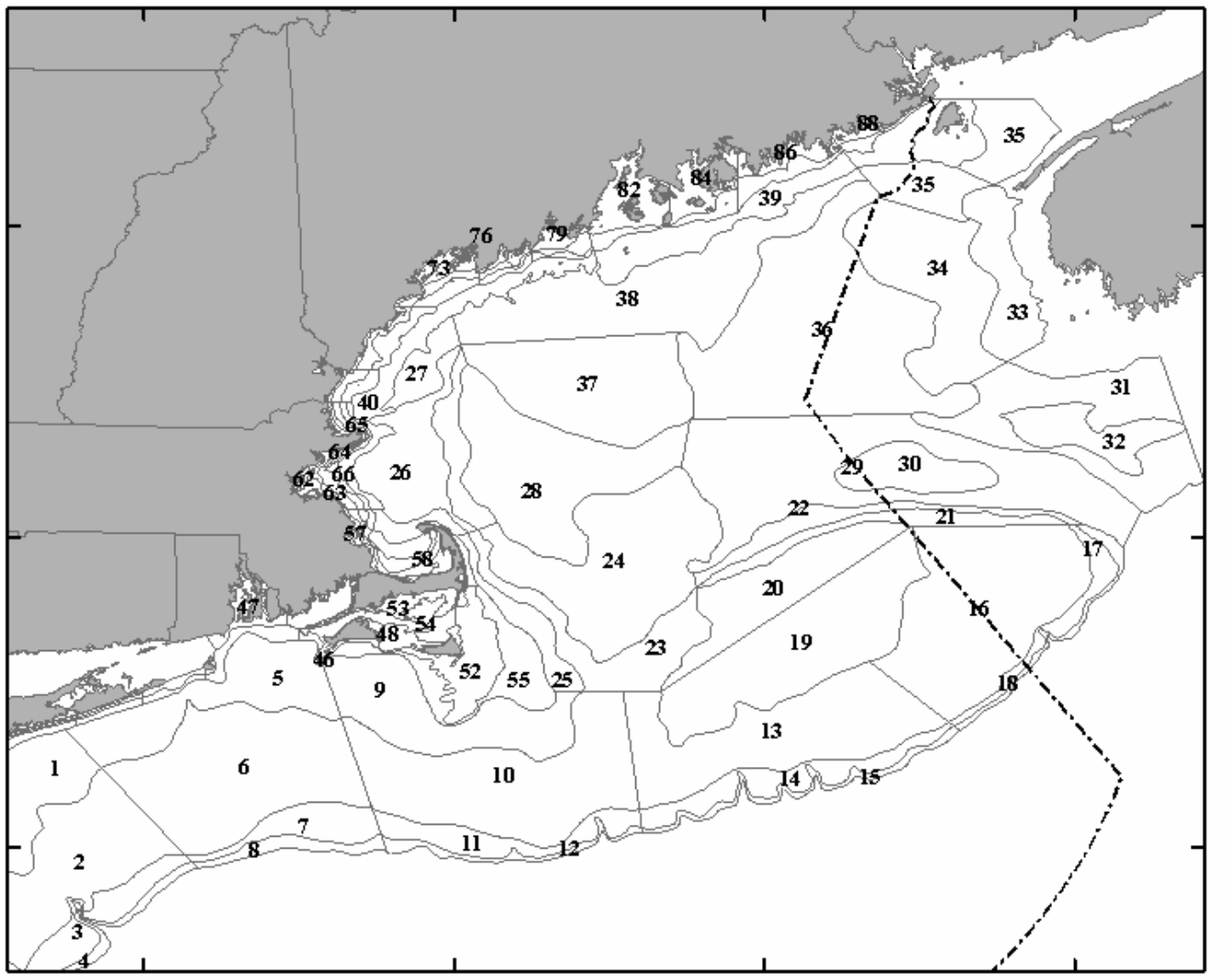


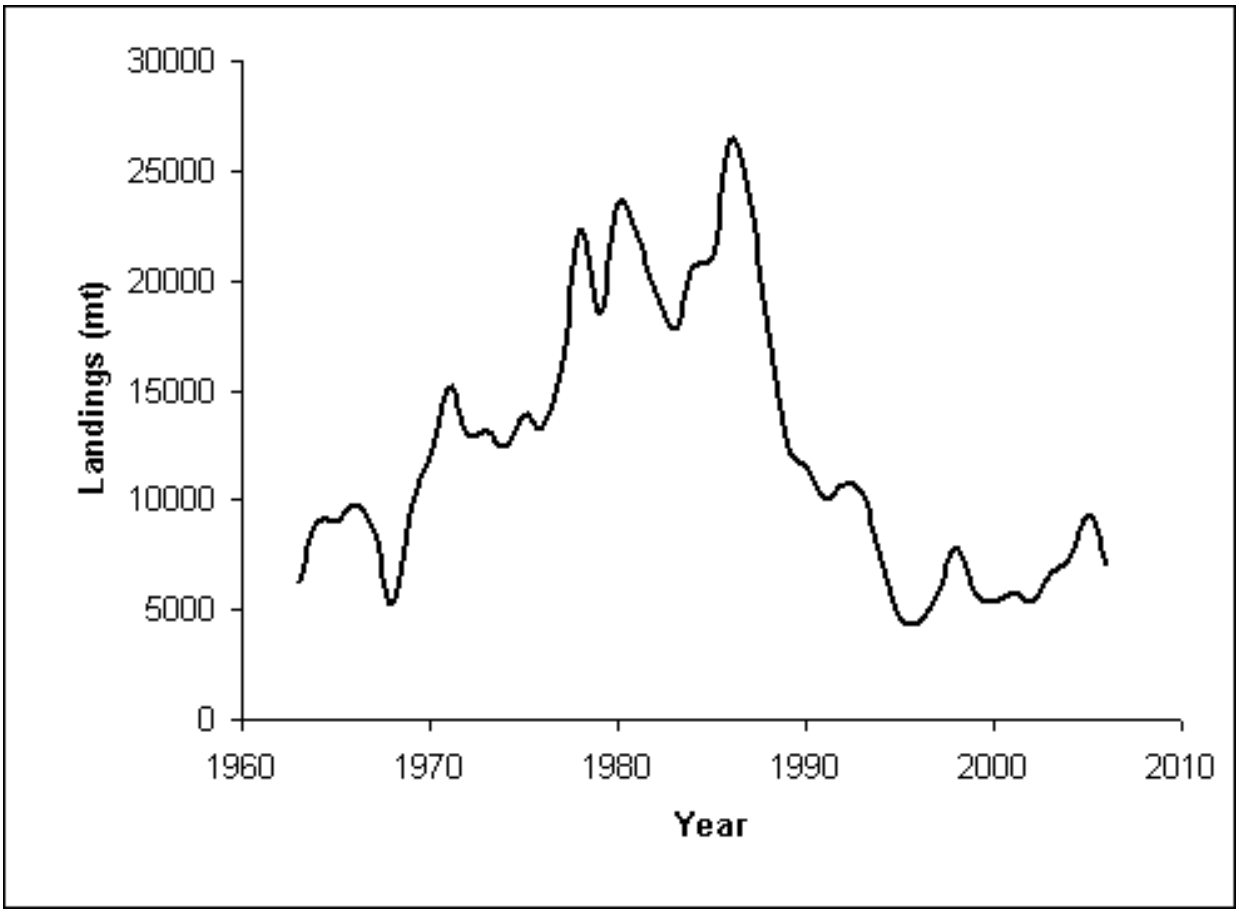
Figure 6.1. Statistical areas used to define the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank pollock stock.

NEFSC Bottom Trawl Survey Strata:

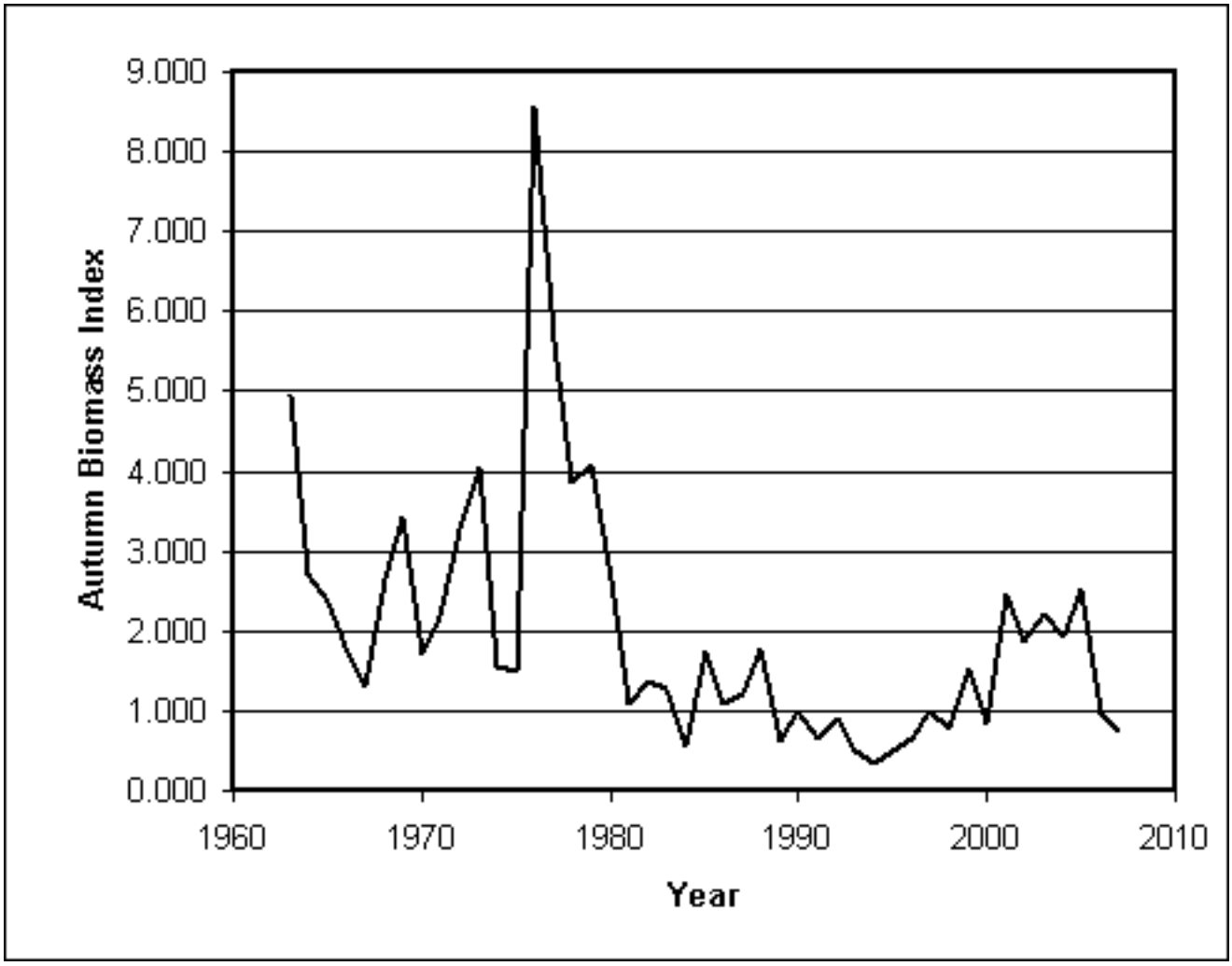
The Pollock Assessment includes strata 13-30, 33-34, and 36-40



Pollock in SA 5&6: Commercial Landings (mt).



Pollock in SA5&6: Autumn Survey Biomass Index (kg/tow)



Status of Pollock in SA 5&6 from the 2005 GARM II

MSY Based Reference Points for Pollock in SA 5&6.

MSY	= 17,640 mt
B_{MSY}	= 3.00 kg/tow
F_{MSY}	= 5.88 (Relative F)

In 2004, the 3-year average biomass index for pollock was 1.99, approximately 66% of the 3.00 Bmsy proxy, an increase from the 2001 value of 1.601.

In 2004, the 3-year average relative F was 3.57, approximately 61% of the 5.88 Fmsy proxy, a slight decrease from the 2001 value of 3.55.

Thus, in 2004 the stock was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring.

Description and history of current approach.

In 2002, index-based biological reference points were developed for a portion of the pollock stock primarily under US management jurisdiction (Subareas 5 and 6), including a portion of eastern Georges Bank (Subdivision 5Zc) that is under Canadian management jurisdiction (NEFSC 2002). These were based on An Index Model (AIM)

The most recent assessment of the resource inhabiting the area comprising this management unit was conducted in October, 2005 at the second Groundfish Assessment Update Meeting (GARM II).

At that time it was determined that the index of current biomass was greater than ½ of the Bmsy proxy reference point and that the index of current F was below the Fmsy proxy reference point (Mayo and Col 2002).

Key strengths and weaknesses.

The current AIM model provides proxy reference points and allows for projection of annual catch levels, but it does not provide absolute estimates of F and stock size.

At the very least, inclusion of recreational catch in the AIM model should improve estimates of the exploitation ratio utilized by the model.

Feasibility of changing the assessment model

The current assessment is based on An Index Model (AIM) which incorporates age-aggregated information on exploitation (commercial landings) and resource biomass (Autumn NEFSC biomass index).

An age-based assessment may be possible for this region if the age structure of all of the commercial landings can be estimated for SA 5&6. This must include the non-USA components (Canadian and DWF) that were substantial in the 1960s and early 1970s. This objective may be difficult to achieve because extensive borrowing of Canadian age length keys from Subarea 5 to was required to derive the age composition of the DWF catch in the 1960s and 1970s (Mayo et al. 1989) which was estimated on a stock-wide basis.